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**For Immediate Release
May 17, 2007**

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REPEAT SEX OFFENDER INDICTED ON CHILD EXPLOITATION CHARGES IN MISSISSIPPI

Frederick T. Brink, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in Mississippi, Dunn Lampton, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Mississippi, and Inspector in Charge Martin Phanco of the Atlanta Division of the United States Postal Inspection Service announced that JERRY WAYNE RAMEY, 39, of Meridian, Mississippi, was indicted Monday, May 7, 2007, in Jackson, Mississippi for production and possession of child pornography.

The indictment alleges that from in or about July 2005 and continuing through January 28, 2006, RAMEY knowingly employed, used, induced and enticed actual minors to engage in sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing a visual depiction of that conduct. The indictment also alleges that RAMEY knowingly possessed matter containing more than three images of child pornography that had been mailed, shipped and transported in interstate and foreign commerce.

RAMEY was prosecuted last year in the Northern District of Alabama for traveling from Meridian, Mississippi to Birmingham, Alabama in January 2006 to engage in sexual intercourse with an 11-year-old minor female child. RAMEY was unaware that the individual he had been communicating with via the website "Craigslist" to arrange the illicit rendezvous was actually an undercover law enforcement officer. RAMEY subsequently pleaded guilty to traveling in interstate commerce with intent to engage in illicit sexual contact with a minor and, on October 3, 2006, was sentenced to 12 years and 4 months in a federal prison.

Monday's Mississippi charges stem from a lead obtained by law enforcement after RAMEY's arrest in Alabama. According to the lead, RAMEY videotaped minor children entrusted to his care while they changed clothes and used the facilities in the bathroom of his residence. While investigating that lead, law enforcement discovered that RAMEY also possessed sexually explicit images of minors he received via the Internet.

The statutory punishment for Production of Child Pornography in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2251(a) is a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of 25 years due to RAMEY's prior conviction. The statutory penalty for possessing child pornography in violation of Title 18, United States Code Section 2252(a)(4)(B) a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of 10 years due to RAMEY's prior conviction. Both charges also carry a fine of up to \$250,000, a term of supervised release of up to life following the term of imprisonment, and a mandatory special assessment of \$100.

The case against RAMEY is being investigated by the Atlanta Division of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and Special Agents of the Meridian Resident Agency of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The case is being prosecuted by Trial Attorney Jill Trumbull-Harris of the United States Department of Justice Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section and the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Mississippi.

The charges upon which the indictment of RAMEY are premised are accusations only and there is a presumption of innocence prior to any judicial proceeding.